

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**December 20, 2022 at 3PM**  
**Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees

Sam Berkheiser, Committee member  
Scott Davis, Committee member  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner  
Pam Richardson, Committee member  
Rebecca Stafford, Committee applicant  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson

2. Draft summary of Committee's November 15, 2022 meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer)

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the November 15, 2022 meeting.

3. New Tree Committee member (s)

The Committee welcomed its new member, Sam Berkheiser, who was appointed by the City Commission on December 6. Josh Fitzhugh's application was rejected because he is in Apalachicola for only a few months each year and the City Charter requires that advisory board members be residents. Rebecca Stafford, former owner of a garden center in TN, introduced herself; her application will be considered by the City Commission at their next meeting.

Ms. Grove said she would pursue getting a description of the Tree Committee up on the city's webpage.

4. January 2023 Arbor Day event

Apalachicola will mark Arbor Day on January 14, 2023 despite a conflict with the Oyster Cook-Off scheduled for that day.

Emily Martin, Florida Forest Service forester for Franklin County, is scheduled to arrive at the Farmers Market at Scipio Creek at 8:30 AM on January 14 with the following 3-gallon trees to be given away:

- 20 pond cypress
- 15 sand live oaks
- 15 myrtle oaks
- 11 sweet bay magnolias, and
- 10 longleaf pines

Ms. Martin will be joined by Alex Skovronsky, Florida Forest Service forester for Tate's Hell State Forest and Eric Lovestrand, University of Florida Extension Service. Mr. Winterringer will ask Mr. Lovestrand to talk about planting instructions. Ms. Richardson will remind Lynn Wilder that she agreed, at the Committee's November 15 meeting, to be on hand to talk about the treatment drug, equipment and procedures for dealing with lethal bronzing disease.

Ms. Richardson agreed to handle publicity for the event. She will write a short article for the Apalachicola Times, contact Oyster Radio and submit an announcement for the city's webpage.

Mr. Berkheiser and Ms. Grove will deliver, chairs, tables and a tent. Mr. Winterringer will prepare an Arbor Day proclamation for the City Commission's January 3 meeting.

Mr. Davis has created a map showing the locations of palms with lethal bronzing disease in Apalachicola. He will be working on making this map interactive, so that residents can update it.

##### 5. Committee's tree planting this winter

We Love Land Studio (Sam and Liz Berkheiser) donated to the city 7-foot tall live oaks in 3-gallon pots and we will plant two at City Square in memory of deceased Committee member Bob Seaborn and one at Franklin Square along 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Winterringer will contact Rhett Butler of the city's water and sewer department to ensure that there are no water sprinkler or utility lines at those sites; he will also get City Manager Travis Wade's permission to do the plantings.

Both Ms. Richardson and Mr. Berkheiser volunteered to help plant. Mr. Davis will also help if he is available. Once the trees have been planted, Mr. Berkheiser will donate gator bags and water at Franklin Square and Mr. Winterringer will water at City Square.

6. Landscape plan for Lafayette Park

The Tree Committee and the Parks and & Recreation Committee agreed to propose that the city, using the \$10,000 in the city's Reforestation Fund, hire a landscape designer to prepare a planting plan for Lafayette Park. Since that agreement, Marie Marshall has said that she may have a landscaping plan, included in her late husband's plan for the park; Mr. Winterringer will meet with Ms. Marshall after the holidays to look over those plans. If there is a landscaping plan, a new plan might not be needed. Ms. Stafford said that she, too, could draw up a plan. Mr. Winterringer distributed a preliminary draft of criteria we deem necessary for any plantings at Lafayette Park.

7. Departure of Code Enforcement Officer

Code Enforcement Officer Glan Jenkins will leave his position on December 30. Mr. Davis believes that Kendall Faulkner, a tree enthusiast, will replace Mr. Jenkins.

Doug Lawrence on Acola Avenue has not paid the \$14,000 he was fined for cutting down a patriarch live oak at his property. The City Attorney is going to take him to court.

8. Tree City USA recertification

To keep its designation as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City, the City needed to submit a recertification application by December 31, 2022. By the date of this meeting, Mr. Winterringer got the Mayor's signature on the application and submitted it to the Foundation.

9. Duke Energy tree trimming

The city's website announced that Burford Tree Service, Duke Energy's tree-cutting contractor, was to start trimming trees along power lines at the end of December. In past years, the Tree Committee was notified of trimming plans and provided input. We were not contacted this year.

10. Next meeting

January 17, 2023, 3PM at Battery Park Community Center.